

testimony, which can leave investigations weak or incomplete. This bill would give the inspector general the authority to subpoena those former employees.

However, this authority is not without checks and balances. The bill would require the IG to notify the Attorney General before using the subpoena. The Attorney General may object and prevent the IG from issuing the subpoena if doing so would interfere with an ongoing investigation.

This authority would sunset in May of 2025 and would require Congress to then evaluate the need for this authority and if it should be continued. This is a good bill to expand oversight of the VA, and it has my full support.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 2687, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2687.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PAYMENT OF VA EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE VIA ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER TO A FOREIGN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7375) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the payment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow for electronic fund transfer of educational assistance, administered by the Secretary, to a foreign institution of higher education.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7375

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAYMENT OF VA EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE VIA ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER TO A FOREIGN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall update the payment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow for electronic fund transfer of educational assistance, administered by the Secretary, to a foreign institution of higher education that—

(1) provides an approved course of education to an eligible recipient of such assistance; and

(2) does not have—

- (A) an employer identification number; or
- (B) an account with a domestic bank.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 7375.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7375, introduced by Representative MIKIE SHERRILL.

This legislation directs VA to finally update its student payment systems to allow for educational assistance funds to be transmitted electronically to a foreign institution of higher education, as long as the institution is providing an approved course of study. Our committee has heard from students and schools about the impact of VA's inability to modernize its systems for student payments.

The bill has bipartisan support as well from Disabled American Veterans, Student Veterans of America, Veterans Education Success, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Madam Speaker, Representative SHERRILL's legislation is a response to strong advocacy for our student veterans studying abroad who are often unsure how their benefits will translate overseas.

Madam Speaker, I thank her for offering this legislation, I urge support and passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7375, a bill that would streamline the payment of GI Bill benefits.

Specifically, the bill would require that, within 90 days of enactment, VA update the electronic fund transfer system for education benefits. Without this change, an overseas school is required to maintain a U.S.-based bank account so that VA can electronically transfer payments for VA beneficiaries who attend their institution. This requirement has kept some schools from participating in the GI Bill. This leads to fewer educational choices for our veterans.

I am pleased that this bill would address this issue and expand opportunities for veterans to use their hard-earned education benefits.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7375, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7375, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7375.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

STUDENT VETERAN WORK STUDY MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6376) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for a certain work-study allowance paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who pursue programs of rehabilitation, education, or training on at least a half-time basis, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6376

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Student Veteran Work Study Modernization Act".

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR A CERTAIN WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE PAID BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO PURSUE CERTAIN PROGRAMS ON AT LEAST A HALF-TIME BASIS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall expand eligibility for the work-study allowance under section 3485 of title 38, United States Code, to individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training specified in subsection (b) of such section at a rate equal to at least half of that required of a full-time student.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER WORK-STUDY INDIVIDUALS.—In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure the provisions of section 3485 of title 38, United States Code, apply with respect to the individuals specified in subsection (a) of this section in the same manner as to the individuals specified in subsection (b) of such section 3485, except with respect to the requirement of at least three-quarter-time student status.

(c) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) during the five-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATE IN WORK-STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually